

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 11 DECEMBER 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** Barn Island Target Bombing Range

SITE NUMBER: D01CT0431

LOCATION:

City: Stonington
County: New London
State: Connecticut

PROJECT NUMBER: D01CT043101

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Barn Island Target Bombing Range, consisting of 47.6 acres, is located on a small island near Stonington, Connecticut, in New London County, west of the Rhode Island state line. A bombing target within the

Range is three miles south of Clarks Village on the southern tip of Barn Island. The Pawcatuck River passes the site on the east. Access to the the bomb target area of the Range was by foot after crossing a marsh area.

Although called an island, the site is not surrounded by water. The land northeast of the island is a tidal marsh area with a very high groundwater table. The site is secluded from most of the mainland. Drainage ditches are located at the entrance/exit area of the island. The site consists of three low hills interconnected and connected to the mainland by mud flats. Moderate to dense growth of bushes and small to large trees cover the three hills. There are no roads to or at the site and the site does not appear to be inhabited by people. The site is above the flood plain and drains into the Little Narragansett Bay.

The former range is part of a much larger Connecticut Barn Island Hunting Area owned by the state of Connecticut. It is maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation for use by the public for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Thick brush exists at the bomb target area and there is an infestation of deer ticks (which may carry Lyme disease). Prior to government use, the island was used for sheep farming.

4. SITE HISTORY: The United States acquired the site, consisting of a total of approximately 47.6 acres (40.2 acres leasehold from the State of Connecticut and 7.4 acres permit from a private owner) by purchase in 1944 and 1945. The Navy used the island for practice dive bombing runs at an existing barn on the island and for machine gun practice. The Navy's use of the island ended sometime in 1945. The leasehold and permit were terminated at this time. The State of Connecticut, Department of Parks and Recreation now owns the entire island. The State uses the island for a public hunting and fishing area.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A:

Size, Acres:	47.6 acres
Former Use:	Aerial dive bombing and machine gun practice
Present Use:	Public hunting and fishing area
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice bomb(four "carcasses"): 100 lb
	Potential
Type:	Small Arms Ammunition: .50 cal

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Barn Island Target Bombing Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Research for the ASR produced little information other than that already provided in the INPR. The ASR Team researched, but was unable to find, documents to include in the ASR which provided details concerning what ammunition was used, what aircraft were flown or where the home base was located. Conclusions are based solely on the INPR information, aerial photographs which show a target ring and confirmed findings of four practice bomb “carcasses” found near the location of the bomb target.

The south central portion of the island where the target was located, jutting as it does into the water, is where the emphasis for the EE/CA should be, especially since that is the only location where presence of OE is confirmed. A reasonable assumption would be that there would not be more potential contamination on other parts of the range closer to the mainland. Mention is made that in the target area, there is a thin layer of soil covering solid rock. This leads the reader to believe that any OE would be visible or readily accessible. Mention is made of the thick brush, but it is also stated that the ground was visible everywhere.

Recommend that the EE/CA should include other parts of the range since the ASR does not indicate the extent to which other areas within the range were examined. The machine gun practice was most certainly air to ground so that any potential small arms ammunition would consist not of whole rounds but bullets or other residue. It is possible that most of this residue would be found at the wall near the target or where the barn or buildings on the eastern side of the island were located.

Ticks: Deer ticks, which may carry Lyme disease, is a concern at the site. The INPR indicates that local Division personnel did not enter the area because of the presence of deer ticks. Recommend scheduling activities at the location when this danger is at a minimum, or take adequate precautions.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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